

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 2 November 1954

SUBJECT Plan to Increase the Use of Water Routes for Freight Transport

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Toward the end of July 1954, the East German Ministry for Railway Affairs issued a directive to the pertinent East German government and industrial authorities, such as DIA, DHZ, and the VEB's, to make every effort to switch all possible freight traffic from rail and truck carriers to water carriers. Although the directive recognized that many items such as gasoline in tank cars, special chemicals, and the like, did not lend themselves to this switch, the responsible officials were urged to do their utmost to make up for it by seeing to it that such items as could be transported by water, were shipped in that manner. 25X1
2. The initial campaign for this switch was to be carried out on the Frankfurt/Oder to Magdeburg route. The Ministry was to make special checks to determine that all freight could be transported by water barge rather than by rail or truck was to be transported, and to submit special reports if this was not adhered to. The same plan was to be applied on other routes subsequently. 25X1
3. The directive did not specify whether this was a temporary measure designed to solve a particular shortage or bottleneck or whether this was a new East German Government policy and would become standard operating procedure. 25X1

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